

H. R. 3068.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 25, 1871.

Read twice, referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DAWES, on leave, introduced the following bill :

A BILL

In relation to estimates of appropriations and appropriation accounts.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That from and after the thirtieth day of June, eighteen hun-
4 dred and seventy-one, all estimates and communications
5 asking for appropriations for any branch of the Government
6 shall be submitted to Congress through the Secretary of the
7 Treasury.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the said Secretary
2 shall cause to be prepared blank forms for estimates, so ar-
3 ranged as to exhibit, in a uniform, simple, and comprehensive
4 manner, the general object for which the appropriation is
5 asked ; the specific objects of expenditure in detail ; the total
6 amount required under each general head, after deducting the

7 balance which it is estimated will be on hand at the com-
8 mencement of the fiscal year for which the submitted esti-
9 mates are intended; the date of act or resolution authorizing,
10 or of the treaty stipulating, for the expenditure,
11 with references to the volume, page, and section or
12 article of the statutes where the same may be found; and the
13 amount appropriated for the preceding year: *Provided*, That
14 where an item of expenditure is only authorized by reason
15 of an appropriation having been previously made therefor, in
16 lieu of the date thereof, the word "appropriated" shall be
17 inserted.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the said Secre-
2 tary shall furnish, by the first of September, in each year,
3 copies of such blank forms for estimates, to the various
4 departments, offices, or bureaus, whose necessities or duties
5 require them to make estimates for appropriations,
6 accompanying the same, with such instructions as to the man-
7 ner in which they should be made as he may deem proper ;
8 and the said blanks shall be filled up and returned to him by
9 the first day of October following, and may be accompanied
10 by such statements, exhibits, or other information, in addition
11 to that required by this act, as may be deemed useful to the
12 proper understanding of the same, but it shall be optional with
13 him whether such additions shall be published, as hereinafter
14 provided.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That on the return
2 of said estimates, the Secretary shall have them classified,
3 arranged, and published in quarto form, and there shall be
4 printed and bound, in addition to the usual number for the
5 use of Congress, three hundred copies for the use of the Sec-
6 retary. And the copies for the use of Congress shall be
7 delivered to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the
8 House in time for distribution at the commencement of each
9 session.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever an
2 estimate shall be submitted for any new specific expenditure
3 for a light-house, custom-house, post office, fort, river, harbor,
4 or other public work or improvement, every such estimate
5 shall be accompanied by a detailed estimate of the cost of the
6 whole work; and all subsequent estimates for any such work
7 shall show the original estimated cost, and the whole amount pre-
8 viously appropriated. And where a subsequent estimate shall ask
9 for an appropriation beyond the originally estimated cost, the
10 reason for the excess and the anticipated amount thereof shall
11 be fully stated.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever the
2 estimates vary from the amounts appropriated for the preced-
3 ing fiscal year, either in the details or the aggregate, they
4 shall be accompanied by concise notes, pointing out and ex-
5 plaining the differences; and where such explanations are more

6 elaborate than would be convenient for insertion in their
7 proper place in the body of the work, they may be revised
8 and condensed, or printed in an appendix, with proper refer-
9 ences to them.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That estimates for
2 contingent, incidental, or miscellaneous expenses shall in no
3 case include salaries or compensation of any kind whatever;
4 but where the number of employees specifically authorized
5 by law shall prove inadequate, such additional number as may
6 be required shall be estimated for in the general estimate for
7 salaries in the bureau or office requiring the additional num-
8 ber. And all such estimates shall be indicated by inserting
9 the word "submitted" in lieu of the date of the authorizing
10 act hereinbefore required to be given.

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary shall
2 include in said estimates a statement of all permanent appro-
3 priations, both specific and indefinite, made by acts passed at
4 any former session of Congress under which it is believed any
5 expenditures will be made during the year for which the esti-
6 mates are intended, giving the same details as are required in
7 the case of other estimates.

1 SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary
2 shall add to the estimates a statement showing the unexpended
3 balance of each appropriation at the commencement of the
4 fiscal year in which the estimates are made; the amounts

5 appropriated for that year; the amounts available for the
6 service of the year; the amounts expended during the first
7 quarter; the estimated amounts required for the remaining
8 threequarters of the year; and the amounts which may be
9 applied to the service of the year for which the estimates are
10 submitted.

1 SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secre-
2 tary shall designate the title by which all appropriations shall
3 be known; and such title, so designated, shall be the title
4 under which estimates and expenditures shall thereafter be
5 made. All appropriations for any building, fort, light-house,
6 or other public work or improvement, whether for the
7 original construction or for alterations, improvements, repairs,
8 or grounds, shall be estimated for and expended under a gen-
9 eral head applicable to the whole work; and there shall be
10 but one appropriation account kept for each general object or
11 particular building, fort, light-house, or other public work or
12 improvement. And for the information of those concerned
13 the Secretary may print such number of the appropriation
14 acts, and in such form, as he may deem necessary.

1 SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That in case any
2 appropriation shall be made by Congress without having been
3 submitted in the estimates of the said Secretary, no money
4 shall be drawn from the Treasury thereon until a certified
5 copy of the act making the appropriation shall have been

6 sent to him, and he shall have indorsed thereon the title by
7 which the said appropriation shall be known; and all titles
8 of appropriations shall convey a clear and concise idea of the
9 general object for which the appropriations were made, and
10 any further estimates or appropriations for the same general
11 object shall be made and disbursed under the title thus
12 established.

1 SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever
2 Congress shall pass any relief act or resolution, payment under
3 which is directed to be made out of any money in the Treas-
4 ury not otherwise appropriated, payment shall be made out of
5 a general indefinite appropriation for "payments under relief
6 acts;" and a detailed statement of the payments under this
7 account for the preceding year, with references to the acts
8 and resolutions, by date, volume, page, and chapter or num-
9 ber, shall be published in the appendix to the estimates.

1 SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever,
2 in the settlement of a disbursing officer's account, it is found
3 that he has drawn money from one appropriation and dis-
4 bursed it on account of expenses properly chargeable to
5 another, the accounting officers shall credit and charge the
6 amount in the officer's account under the correct appropria-
7 tions, and transfer the same to a general account with the
8 proper department, to be known as the "transfer account,"
9 which account shall be closed monthly by warrant and

10 counter-warrant, so far as the same can be done under exist-
11 ing and available appropriations. Said transfer shall include
12 all vouchers presented, whether they are allowed or suspended,
13 and shall be made in such manner as to debit the officer
14 under the appropriations out of which the vouchers, when
15 perfected, will be allowed. But nothing herein con-
16 tained shall be construed to authorize any transfer of appro-
17 priations, or the advance of money from one appropriation
18 for disbursement on account of expenses properly chargeable
19 to another ; and all such transfers and advances are hereby
20 prohibited : *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Navy may
21 make advances to paymasters on foreign stations, or on a cruise
22 from the appropriation for "pay of the Navy," to be used for
23 general disbursement on account of expenses; but in every such
24 case the paymasters shall make monthly returns of their dis-
25 bursements out of the money thus advanced, to the Fourth
26 Auditor, in such form as he shall prescribe, showing the
27 proper appropriations to which the same should be charged;
28 and upon such returns the auditor shall make the transfer
29 hereinbefore required. A statement of the unclosed balances,
30 in said transfer accounts, at the close of each fiscal year, shall
31 be printed in the appendix to the estimates.

1 SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That for the pur-
2 pose of settling the accounts of the Treasurer of the United
3 States, there shall be an appropriation account on the proper

4 books of the Treasury Department, to be known as the
5 "unavailable balances" account, from and to which all un-
6 available balances shall be transferred by warrant based upon
7 the proper settlement of the Auditor, confirmed by the Comp-
8 troller. And all such transfers heretofore made, other than
9 by warrant, including the amounts deposited with the States,
10 shall be examined, stated, and transferred as herein directed.

1 SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted,* That when money
2 standing to the credit of the disbursing officers shall be repaid
3 into the Treasury as "outstanding liabilities," under the pro-
4 visions of the act of May second, eighteen hundred
5 and sixty-six, it shall be covered and credited upon the
6 books of the office in which the officer was charged
7 when the advance was made to him; and the Regis-
8 ter of the Treasury shall furnish to the Second,
9 Third, and Fourth Auditors a transcript of all amounts
10 heretofore covered into the Treasury as repayments
11 of amounts standing to the credit of disbursing officers who
12 are charged on their books, respectively; and hereafter each
13 of said Auditors shall keep an "outstanding liabilities" account
14 on the books of their respective offices, in the manner pre-
15 scribed in the act hereinbefore referred to.

1 SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted,* That in order to
2 enable the Secretary of the Treasury to keep an accurate
3 account of the several loans of the United States, there shall

4 be kept on the books of the Department an appropriation
5 account, to be known as the "premium and discount account,"
6 which shall be charged with the discount and credited with
7 the premium hereafter accruing on loans in conformity to
8 law; and all loans which have heretofore been sold at a dis-
9 count shall be credited with the amount thereof, and the
10 amount thus credited shall be charged to the account herein
11 authorized.

1 SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted*, That in all cases
2 where money has been erroneously covered into the Treasury
3 of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury shall have
4 authority, by warrant and counter-warrant, to correct said
5 erroneous entry, charging the amount to a general account,
6 to be known as "transfer of moneys erroneously covered."
7 But nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize
8 the payment from the Treasury of any moneys thus errone-
9 ously covered, without specific authority of law.

1 SEC. 18. *And be it further enacted*, That all proceeds of
2 sales of old material, condemned stores, supplies, or other
3 public property of any kind, shall hereafter be deposited and
4 covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts on account
5 of "proceeds of Government property," and shall not be
6 withdrawn or applied except in consequence of a subsequent
7 appropriation made by law; and a detailed statement of all
8 such proceeds of sales shall be included in the appendix to

9 the book of estimates. But this section shall not be held to
10 repeal the existing authority of law in relation to marine
11 hospitals, revenue cutters, the clothing fund of the Navy, or
12 the sale of commissary stores to officers of the Army. And
13 it shall be the duty of the Register of the Treasury to furnish
14 to the proper accounting officers copies of all warrants cover-
15 ing such proceeds, where the same may be necessary in the
16 settlement of accounts in their respective offices.